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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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March 17, 2009

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The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Acting Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a block grant program with recent annual funding of approximately \$2.5 billion and proposed 2010 funding of \$3.2 billion. LIHEAP provides grants to low-income households consisting of cash benefits to help pay for home heating fuel crisis payments to resolve emergencies; energy conservation; and weatherization measures to address long-range solutions. There have been allegations of fraud and other wrongdoings related to the LIHEAP program; specifically the Pennsylvania State Auditor in a performance review of the program found inadequate policies and procedures, insufficient supervision, and inadequate oversight resulting in potential fraud including applicants receiving benefits using Social Security numbers associated with deceased people.

As energy prices continue to rise, this assistance is growing more important to mitigate the impact of higher prices on low-income households. In light of the serious fiscal challenges facing our nation and the billions of federal dollars that are spent on the LIHEAP program each year, we are requesting that FSI investigate whether fraudulent and/or abusive actions exist in the program. In performing this work, we request that FSI develop case study examples of these fraudulent and/or abusive actions and evaluate and test fraud prevention controls.

Letter to Mr. Dodaro

March 17, 2009

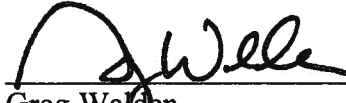
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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Alan Slobodin of the Minority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

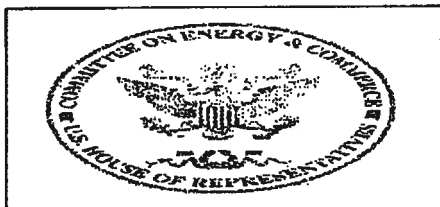
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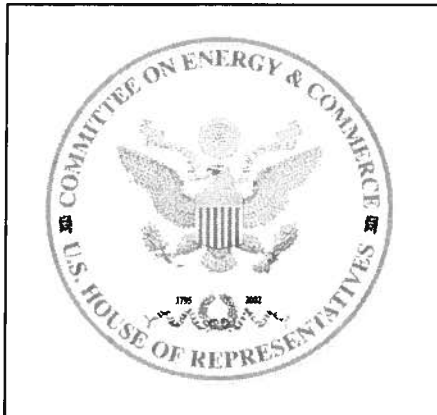
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To:	Ms. Ross Harris for Mr. Gene L. Dodaro; Acting Comptroller General; Government Accountability Office
From:	Rep. Joe Barton; Ranking Member; House Committee on Energy and Commerce Rep. Greg Walden; Ranking Member; Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Fax:	(202) 512-7919
Date:	March 17, 2009
Phone:	202-225-3641
Pages:	3 (Including cover)
Notes:	Re: HHS Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



***Committee on Energy and Commerce
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To: Ms. Rosa Harris for Mr. Gene L. Dodaro; Acting Comptroller General; Government
Accountability Office

From: Rep. Joe Barton; Ranking Member; House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Rep. Greg Walden; Ranking Member; Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

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Notes: Re: HHS Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
